Your suggestions for suspending the grazing rules and for modifying them will be referred to the Conservator of Forests.

Your suggestions regarding irrigation boards, the opening of a small agricultural farm and the sale of manure by Provertikars are noted, as also those relating to the collection of revenue.

Your suggestion as regards encroachment proceedings at Sampurvadakara will be considered.

In regard to your suggestion that the wet lands irrigated by the Perumalkulam tank should be acquired under the urgency clause of the Land Acquisition Regulation, I may tell you that arrangements are being made accordingly.

154. Some needs of the Kunnattur taluk.

Mr. C. T. Geevarghese Mutalali (Member, Kunnattur taluk) said that the bulk of the population of his taluk were agriculturists. Observation had shown that agriculture as an industry was steadily declining in the State. He stated that Government would be able to stop such decline in the Kunnattur taluk by restoring the irrigation tanks in the taluk and throwing cross bunds over the Valiatodu and filling it up. He said that Government would not be put to much expense on account of those works and that the people were prepared to contribute their share if Government would have the work carried out through the Agricultural Department or a committee. It was also pointed out that the bund would be only 15 to 20 ft. in length and that it was not likely to cost much.

The tanks requiring improvement in his taluk were:—

(1) the Putiaril *chira* near the English School;
(2) Cutcherrykulam near the vernacular school and the Cutcherry;
(3) Pulikkunnan *chira* to the west of the Travellers' Bungalow; and,
(4) Chantakkulam to the west of the Parakkode market.

The Member next said that the only means of communication in the taluk were the M. C. road and the Kayankulam-Punalur road. The people were experiencing great difficulties on account of the absence of village roads. He suggested that the two following roads might be improved this year:—

1. The road from the 13th mile in the Kayankulam-Punalore road to Anayadi.

2. The road from Chikkakadavu in Kallada to the Netiavila temple.

He represented that the toll-gate at Adur was causing great hardship to the poor and annoyance to the public. He prayed that it might either be shifted from its present site, or that the right of levying tolls there might be leased out annually as in the case of the toll-gates at Kuzhittura and other places.

The establishment of another toll gate at the junction within 7 furlongs of the former one was iniquitous. He requested that the new toll-gate might be abolished.

The Member next spoke about the exclusion of arable lands from the reserve forests included in the Kunnattur taluk. In point of agriculture his taluk was far backward and in the olden days the people of that taluk were chiefly dependent on *malavaram* cultivation for their livelihood which had become now impossible. But the order of the Government that lands available for paddy cultivation in the reserved forests of the State might be thrown open for registry was a source of relief to the people. He understood that Government had appointed committees of officials and non-officials for some of the taluks of the State in view to the selection of swampy areas from the reserves, but no such committee had, so far, been appointed for his taluk. The Member requested that a committee might be appointed for examining the Anakkulam and Koduman Reserves and selecting the lands within them which were available for assignment.

The Member next said that the Munsiff's court at Adur was established about 11 years ago, as a result of repeated representations in the Assembly, and that for want of a proper building that court was ordered to be located in the Satrom in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

which a temporary shed was put up. The accommodation in the satrom being very limited, the construction of a building for the court was commenced in 1097. After some progress, the work was stopped as the actual cost was found to exceed the estimate. The Member prayed that the estimate might be revised and the building completed as early as possible, the necessary provision being made in the budget.

The Member then referred to the inconvenience and hardship the people were put to for want of a Magistrate's court at the place. The question had been pressed at the previous session of the Assembly, but no favourable orders had been passed so far. The reply to that representation was that the redistribution of revenue and magisterial charges had not had a fair trial. But the difficulties experienced by the people were very great. The Member observed that the Stationary Magistrate, Kottarakara, had jurisdiction over 6 out of the 9 *pakuthies* in the Kunnattur taluk, and that the distance from the nearest *pakuthies* to the court house was about 8 miles, while that from the *pakuthies* further away from the court house was 28 miles. The Member prayed either for the establishment of a Magistrate's court at the place, or for the Tahsildar being authorised to exercise Magisterial powers.

President's reply.—As regards your representation about the early completion of the Munsiff's court building at Adur, on receipt of a revised estimate which is under preparation, sanction will be accorded to the work being taken up.

As for facilities for the development of agriculture, estimates will be called for for the works referred to by you and the works started next year, if possible.

The question of appointing a committee for going into the question of the assignment of swampy areas within your taluk will be considered.

As for the abolition of the toll-gate near Adur, this is not feasible; but facilities will be afforded whereby people will be allowed to compound their payments under the rules which are being revised. In regard to the other toll-gate near the local English school, your difficulties will disappear with the introduction of the revised rules.

155. Needs of the Mavleikara taluk.

Mr. Eapen Geevarghese (Member, Mavelikara taluk) stated that the Government would be able to realise the importance of the works on which he was going to speak from the persistent representations made on the same subject in successive sessions of the Assembly. He did not want to deal with any new subject, but would only repeat his old representations.

He first referred to the portion of the river from Tarayilmukku depôt to Illimala. Four miles of the river were mostly useless for navigation. The total length which required deepening out of those four miles would not exceed 2 miles. In the months of Kumbham, Minam and Medam the shallow portions of the river got completely dried up. That was the only direct route from Mavelikara to Tiruvalla, Chengannur and other places. He heard that a Public Works Department officer who was stationed there had reported to the Government that the river would soon get shallow even if deepened, and that the Government had therefore abandoned the work. People had often to suffer on account of the difference of opinion of experts. He pointed out that, in such cases, the opinion of local persons with accurate knowledge of the direction and force of currents during the floods every year, had often better chances of being more correct than the opinion of engineers. If therefore the Public Works Department wanted to get any information on the point, he would advise the Chief Engineer to consult the Assembly members also who had bestowed some thought on the question. It would be possible to make the portion navigable by spending a small sum every year, while, if a larger amount was spent, it might be possible to permanently prevent the river from getting shallow. He prayed that the work might be carried out as early as possible.

He next stated that the *todu* along the Tazhakara *punja* should be improved. The Dewan had inspected the place and was satisfied with the urgency of the work. He requested the Government to take up the work at once.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly